

# ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Martin Fletcher

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am-1pm – Wednesday closed.



## Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023

We live in times when many of our conversations exaggerate difference and division. But the scripture for this Sunday proclaims a radical message of love that overcomes hatred, and a compassion that heals and unifies.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians (Second Reading 1 Cor. 3: 16–23) teaches that the Spirit of God is within us. Together, we are a temple of God proclaiming God's wisdom. This wisdom challenges human notions of tribalism that can ultimately lead to division and hatred, when we see 'others' as our enemies.

Moses (First Reading Lev. 19: 1–2, 17–18) is commanded to profess God's wisdom by telling the people that holiness is based on love and forgiveness: 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.'

In the Gospel (Matthew 5: 38–48), Jesus reveals the full expression of the wisdom of God's Law of Love: 'love your enemies'. We are called to respond with radical non-violence to all forms of hatred and division.

This week, may the words of the Psalm, a song of love sing out through all that we do and say. Let us pray that we will have the grace to move beyond divisive 'them-and-us' ways of thinking and relating. In God we are all One, bound together with compassion and love.

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.**

**It is a day of fasting and abstinence.**

**There will be Mass and distribution of the ashes at 9.15am and 7.30pm.**

**Fridays in Lent – Stations of the cross at 7pm followed by Mass.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** This coming Wednesday - 22<sup>nd</sup> February Mass & distribution of the ashes at 9.15am and 7.30pm.

**SECOND COLLECTION FOR TURKEY & SYRIA:** This weekend there will be a second collection for the 'CAFOD & Disasters Emergency Committee – Turkey & Syria Appeal'. Devastating earthquakes have hit Turkey and Syria, killing thousands of people, and reducing buildings to rubble. Please give whatever you can to help those in need.

**SVP SECOND COLLECTION:** Next weekend, 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> February, there will be a second collection for the SVP Society. The St Vincent de Paul Society is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need. Please give whatever you can to support the most vulnerable in our local community.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During Lent, there will be stations of the cross every Friday evening at 7pm followed by Mass.

**LENTEN PROJECT:** This year the Parish and the school will be supporting CAFOD as our joint Lenten project. CAFOD donation envelopes are available at the back of the church. On the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March we will have a second collection after all masses.

**PASS IT ON!:** This is a multigenerational social group, bringing older and younger people together. The group meets monthly in St Mary's Parish Hall, Hornchurch on a Saturday 2pm - 4pm. This is free group, open to all and refreshments are provided.

**The next meeting is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.** If you have any specific queries or if you require any assistance with travel, please contact Joanne on 07985 496196.

**EXPLORING YOUR FAITH:** A monthly drop-in group for tea, biscuits and chatting about your faith, all are welcome! Next session is on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 8-9.30pm in The Van Meenen Room with Liz, Karen & Teresa. For more information call Liz on 07801708017.

**BAPTISM:** Our next Baptism course will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to attend this course, please fill in a Baptism form which is located at the back of the church and hand it in to the Parish office.

**FOODBANK:** Please leave your donations for the foodbank at the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**ROSARY THURSDAY 7.30pm:** The Rosary will be said in the Church. Please enter through the side door of the Church by the Van Meenan room. All are welcome to come and join us.

**BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL LENT LECTURE:** The pain, passion and privilege of supporting Christians who are suffering persecution" to be given by Baroness Caroline Cox at Brentwood Cathedral on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.00 p.m. Free Entry. No need to book.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The beautiful, tried and tested 8-day itinerary promises to bring the faithful pilgrim an unforgettable and life-changing experience. This pilgrimage will include a non-stop return flight from the UK to Tel Aviv with Israel's national airline, EL AL (in-flight meals included), all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner every day), an executive touring coach, a professional local Christian guide, all entrance fees, all tips and gratuities. You will stay at a 5-star hotel in Jerusalem for 4 nights and in a 5-star hotel set on the Sea of Galilee with stunning views and private beach access for 3 nights. £2,967. For full details [www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/HL0756/](http://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/HL0756/)

**FINANCES:** Please feel free to drop an offering into the presbytery or alternatively, you can make a payment into our bank account, either as a one off or by a regular Standing Order.

The details are as follows:

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Name: St. Mary Mother of God

If you have a gift aid number, please use that as a reference when you make your donation.

Any donations are very gratefully received.

**GIFT AID:** Gift Aid is a tremendous way for any taxpayer (including pensioners who pay tax) to support the parish. It is simple: you complete just one form (located at the back of the church), and after that 25% of whatever you give is added to your donation.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Bridie McDonagh RIP, Betty Gemba RIP, Margit (Margaret) Baan RIP, and Jim Carroll RIP who have died recently. Please keep their families in your prayers.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH** at home and in hospital, especially: Ashley Baptist, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, Martin Cornish, John Dawson, Mary Devlin, David Donovan, Arturo Garzon, Anna Gawlik, Victor Guy, Fr Bob Hamill, Malcolm Hiltion, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Pauline Joyce, Bertha Samuels, Bill Lodge, Paul Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Carly Menon, Bridget O'Sullivan, Phil & Tony Reed, Paul Ridley, Susan Squires, Anne Sullivan, Josie Walsh, Evelyn Ward and for all our family and friends who are ill. **Please inform us if there is someone seriously ill and let us know if anyone on the list is no longer ill so we can remove their name from our list.**

### **PRAYER TO OUR LADY – THE MEMORARE PRAYER**

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

### **PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

"Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen."

### **A PRAYER FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA**

We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria.

We pray for everyone who is affected by the earthquake, those who have lost loved ones, and all who have lost their homes.

May they be comforted by so many people reaching out to offer support.

Lord, bless the efforts of rescuers and medical staff, and all agencies trying to help.

Move our hearts with compassion.

May our sisters and brothers know that they are loved and find their hope restored.

Amen.

# Mass Intentions:

Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	All Parishioners
Sunday <i>Seventh Sunday in ordinary time</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>8.00am</b>	Greg Little RIP / Rowland Harriss RIP
		<b>9.30am</b>	Agnes Farrell RIP / Jim O'Connell RIP
		<b>11:30am</b>	Johnny McDonagh RIP / John & Anna McGuirk Int
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>9.15am</b>	Norah Lenehan RIP / Bridget McDonagh RIP
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>9.15am</b>	Matthew Ward RIP / Francis Braganza Int / Nora Shanahan 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Wednesday <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>9.15am</b>	Betty Gemba RIP / Patrick McDonagh RIP
		<b>7.30pm</b>	Muriel Gargano RIP / Pat Mills RIP
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>11.00am</b>	FUNERAL Bridget McDonagh RIP
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>11.00am</b>	FUNERAL Betty Gemba RIP
		<b>7.00pm</b>	Stations of the cross followed by mass Holy Souls
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>5.30-6pm</b>	Confession
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Pat Harrington RIP / Norah Lenehan RIP
Sunday <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	26 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>8.00am</b>	Jenny Phelan RIP / Joe Curtin Int
		<b>9.30am</b>	All Parishioners
		<b>11.30am</b>	Eamon Commins RIP / Helen Ging & her brother Christy RIP / Bridget & John Reilly & grandchildren RIP

**Hospital: If you are going into hospital this week for surgery Fr Martin will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick after all Sunday Masses.**

The Rosary will be said after all weekday morning Masses

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The editors accept no responsibility for factual inaccuracies. Please note the location of the fire exits.*